

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 15 and has objected to claims 3 and 14. In particular, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 13, and 15 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Noda (JP 8-177499); the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (JP 11-82243); and the Examiner has rejected claims 8, 9, and 10 under USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogita et al. (JP 8-144762).

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 8. Amended claim 1 contains the limitation: "wherein the fuel injector and a spark plug are disposed in a cylinder head of the combustion chamber and said collision occurs at a point closer to said spark plug than the injector." Applicants submit that none of the references show such an arrangement. In Figure 4, of the Ogita et al. reference and Figure 3 of the Noda reference, the collision point is shown to occur proximate to the fuel injector. Figures 1 and 2 of Ogita et al. and Figures 1 and 2 of Noda, which show the injector mounted in the engine, do NOT indicate a "collision occur[ring] at a point closer to said spark plug than the injector," as stated in Applicants' claim 1. Applicants submit that neither Noda or Ogita et al. anticipate Applicants' claim 8, which contains the limitation: "fuel jets ... emanating from said orifices ... collide with one another before reaching said ignition device at a point closer to said ignition device than said injector." Applicants submit that the reference of Yamamoto et al. does not show mounting of their fuel injection valve in an engine. Thus, it would be impossible for Yamamoto et al. to anticipate Applicants' invention, which contains limitations directed toward the location of a collision of fuel jets with respect to a location of the fuel injector and an ignition device. Applicants submit that none of the references cited by the Examiner anticipates the currently amended independent claims 1 and 8. Applicants fervently request that rejections to claims 1 and 8, and to claims 2-7 and 9-15, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

No other art is cited in the Office Action. Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



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